Lesson Fourteen: The Noun of Usage

[اِسْم الآلَة]

PRINCIPLE ONE

The *noun of usage* (**اِسْم الآلَة**) indicates a tool used to produce the action described by the base letters. For example, the letters **ف–ع–ل** mean "to do" and its noun of usage **مِفْعَل** refers to a tool used to perform an act.

PRINCIPLE TWO

The *noun of usage* is produced by placing the base letters on one of three patterns: (1) **مِفْعَل**, (2) **مِفْعَلَة**, and (3) **مِفْعَال**. These are designated as short, medium, and long according to the number of letters in each pattern (*table 14.1*). A given set of base letters may use one, two, or all three of these patterns. For example, the letters **ف–ت–ح** mean, "to open" and its noun of usage **مِفْتَاح** refers to a tool used to open (i.e., a key).

PRINCIPLE THREE

The *noun of usage* does not have a feminine form.

PRINCIPLE FOUR

The dual for the *noun of usage* is constructed in a manner similar to that outlined for dual of the *active participle* (*lesson eleven*).

PRINCIPLE FIVE

The *noun of usage* uses a broken plural that is *ghair munsarif* (**غَيْر مُنْصَرِف**). Recall that *ghair munsarif* words neither permit double vowels [*tanwīn*] nor a single *kasrah* on their last letter (*lesson thirteen*).

ESSENTIAL NOTE

The conjugations of the *noun of usage* must be memorized (*table 14.1*) before moving to the next lesson.

TABLE 14.1

THE THREE PATTERNS FOR THE *NOUN OF USAGE*

PATTERN A (SHORT)

MASCULINE			
BROKEN PLURAL	**DUAL**	**SINGULAR**	
مَفَاعِلُ tools of doing	مِفْعَلاَنِ two tools of doing	مِفْعَلٌ a tool of doing	رَفْع
مَفَاعِلَ tools of doing	مِفْعَلَيْنِ two tools of doing	مِفْعَلاً a tool of doing	نَصْب
مَفَاعِيْلَ tools of doing	مِفْعَلَيْنِ two tools of doing	مِفْعَلٍ a tool of doing	جَرّ

PATTERN B (MEDIUM)

MASCULINE			
BROKEN PLURAL	**DUAL**	**SINGULAR**	
مَفَاعِلُ tools of doing	مِفْعَلَتَانِ two tools of doing	مِفْعَلَةٌ a tool of doing	رَفْع
مَفَاعِلَ tools of doing	مِفْعَلَتَيْنِ two tools of doing	مِفْعَلَةً a tool of doing	نَصْب
مَفَاعِلَ tools of doing	مِفْعَلَتَيْنِ two tools of doing	مِفْعَلَةٍ a tool of doing	جَرّ

PATTERN C (LONG)

MASCULINE			
BROKEN PLURAL	**DUAL**	**SINGULAR**	
مَفَاعِيْلُ tools of doing	مِفْعَالاَنِ two tools of doing	مِفْعَالٌ a tool of doing	رَفْع
مَفَاعِيْلَ tools of doing	مِفْعَالَيْنِ two tools of doing	مِفْعَالاً a tool of doing	نَصْب
مَفَاعِيْلَ tools of doing	مِفْعَالَيْنِ two tools of doing	مِفْعَالٍ a tool of doing	جَرّ